



Captain E. L. Alexander
Commanding Officer

Off the coast of Honshu

11 October 2007

Dear MIDGETT Family and Friends,

The last time I wrote we were in the Bering Sea north of the Aleutian Islands patrolling along the American frontier with Russia and enforcing fishery regulations. Since that letter, our mission (and obviously our location) has changed once again. We are currently participating in a United Nation's effort to stop drift net fishing in the Northwest Pacific. This is a multinational effort with support from various nations including Canada, Japan and China. Driftnets are floating nets up to 40 kilometers in length. Drift nets target salmon, albacore tuna and flying squid, but often trap other species, including seabirds and marine mammals. Nets lost at sea continue to kill fish and marine mammals for years. Left unchecked, driftnets cause ecological disaster in our oceans.

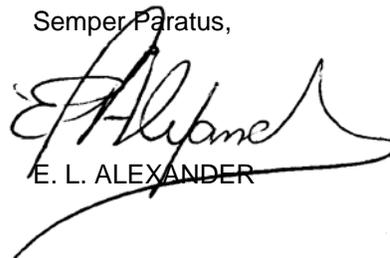
We departed the Aleutians about the middle of September and after weathering a storm patrolled for a short time on the fishing grounds about 700 miles off the coast of Hokkaido Japan. In early October we came into the naval base at Sasebo Japan for fuel, food and crew rest. Afterwards we proceeded north to rendezvous with the Cutter Boutwell and assume escort of three recently seized Chinese drift net fishing vessels. With Midgett prize crews on each vessel we are escorting them south to a rendezvous with a Chinese Coast Guard vessel near the East China Sea. Along the way we ran into the remnants of Typhoon Krosa; however its energy was previously spent on Taiwan and the Chinese coastline and we encountered mainly rain.

Escort and prize crew operations require a lot of diligence. We rotate security personnel on the seized vessels twice a day to ensure proper crew rest. The prize crew security teams interact with the fishing vessel's master and crew to ensure security as well as provide navigational direction provided from Midgett. Since we maneuver in formation our bridge provides speed and course changes to ensure navigational safety and that we maintain a tactical position on the seized vessels. Our small boat teams operate in all weathers day and night to transfer personnel and equipment to and from the seized vessels. In addition our operations personnel coordinate closely with Chinese officials in Beijing and Shanghai to ensure a smooth and safe transfer of these vessels and their crew.

After we transfer custody of the fishing vessels to Chinese authorities, we are going to refuel in Japan then head back to the fishing grounds off Hokkaido Japan. Towards the end of the month we will return to the Bering Sea for the final days of the patrol.

Our patrol tasking has changed many times over the last couple months; however one thing that has not changed is our return to port. At this time I anticipate arriving at Pier 36 in Seattle on the 13th of November. We will advertise the exact time a little later. I hope to see you there.

Semper Paratus,



E. L. ALEXANDER